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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT NO.	25X1A
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SOURCE:

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1. On 19 and 20 June 1953, the workers of Stahl- und Walzwerk Hennigsdorf (iron and steel works and rolling mill) (SWH) were made to work by force of arms. About 250 SWH workers were arrested and taken away to an unknown destination. All workers were continuously shadowed and questioned. Two were summarily shot at the works. Washrooms and shower rooms, as well as locker rooms, were guarded by Soviet soldiers and VPs. Every workman was searched on entering or leaving the works. The lockers of 800 workers who had not reported for work were marked with a red cross. Regular work was impossible, since the labor force was insufficient. The workers were questioned by a Soviet officer with three stars who was assisted by two other Soviet officers. They pretended to be looking for the reasons for the strike. If one of those questioned called the withdrawal of the Soviet occupation forces desirable, he was in trouble. Source believed that a total of seven persons were summarily shot and that about one thousand were arrested in Hennigsdorf.
2. As of 4 July 1953, three 100-ton open hearth furnaces were not yet operating. The workers of the steel plant planned to strike again, if traffic on the Berlin elevated railroad was not back to normal by 6 July 1953. The production of the wire plant decreased to one-third as a result of a breakdown of the Garret-type fastenings, whose drums had cracked and were unable to prevent the leakage of cooling water. Attempts to weld these drums electrically failed, and the seams cracked again.

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